However, the Railway Administration assist the GRP in controlling crime over Railways and following steps have been taken by the Railways :

1. Steps have been taken to sensitize the RPF personnel to the problems of women passengers by organizing workshops and seminars.
2. Ladies' compartments are escorted in some suburban areas by lady constables of GRP and RPF.
3. Special squads consisting of ladies ticket checking staff and lady RPF personnel have been formed and are operating in Central, South Central and Western Railways to assist the women passengers.

Commemoration of 150 years of Railways

5216. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways organised a year-long celebrations to commemorate 150 years of Railways in India;

(b) if so, what was the budget for the celebrations; and

(c) whether it involved all the Zonal Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 790.27 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Downsizing in Railways

5217. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'human failure' behind rail accidents stems from the paucity of Group 'D' safety category staff and hence Government have decided to fill up 20,000 vacancies therein;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways operations are bound to be labour intensive;

(c) whether keeping in mind the safety aspect, RPF and RPSF have been exempted from Government's downsizing policy;

(d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) are in affirmative how Government explains its policy of downsizing manpower by 2 per cent every year; and

(e) what are the reasons behind accepting the downsizing policy ?